

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-49. (canceled)

50. (currently amended) A method of identifying a molecule that specifically binds to a ligand that is differentially expressed in cardiac hypertrophy tissue relative to normal cardiac tissue, wherein the ligand selected from the group consisting of a comprises a protein having at least 95% identity to a polypeptide sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:9, a fragment of the protein comprising a domain of the protein, or and a nucleic acid encoding the protein or fragment selected from the group consisting of CH-1, CH-2, CH-3, CH-4, CH-5, CH-6, CH-7, CH-8 and CH-9 comprising SEQ ID NO:9, the method comprising:

- a) contacting said ligand in vitro with a plurality of molecules under conditions conducive to binding between said ligand and said molecules; and
- b) identifying a molecule within said plurality that specifically binds to said ligand.

51. (currently amended) A method of identifying an inhibitor of a candidate agent that inhibits CHAG gene expression, comprising contacting a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of a an isolated cell comprising a CHAG polynucleotide sequence encoding a protein having at least 95% identity to a polypeptide encoded by comprising SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, SEQ ID NO:8 or SEQ ID NO:9 with a candidate agent an antisense nucleic acid and determining whether the candidate agent antisense nucleic acid inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide.

52. (canceled)

53. (currently amended) The method of claim 51 ~~52~~, wherein that antisense nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a catalytic RNA, a ribozyme, an antisense RNA, and a chimeric RNA-DNA analogue.

54-62. (canceled)

63. (currently amended) The method of claim 51, wherein determining whether the ~~candidate agent antisense nucleic acid~~ inhibits expression of the CHAG polynucleotide comprises detecting expression of the CHAG polynucleotide using PCR, northern or southern blot in the presence or absence of the ~~candidate compound antisense nucleic acid~~.

64. (canceled)

65. (currently amended) The method of claim 64~~51~~, wherein the cell is selected from the group consisting of cultured myocytes, isolated papillary muscles, skinned fibers, and beating or arrested isolated perfused heart tissue subjected to pressure and volume-loading conditions.

66. (currently amended) The method of claim 65~~51~~, wherein the cell is a cultured myocyte.

67. (new) The method of claim 51, wherein the CHAG polynucleotide comprises SEQ ID NO:9.